

of lactic acid into the cavity of the peritoneum; diseases of the stomach, and on the actual value and proper employment of bloodletting as a remedy in inflammation; embracing an exposition of the views, experiments, and observations of Drs. Jenner, Brown-Séquard, Todd and Gull, Quain, Garrod, Kirkes, Brinton, Addison, and Richardson, Mr. Lochart Clarke, and a host of others, who, of late years, have perfected and enlarged almost everything in relation to medicine, both as a science and an art.

So copious have been the additions made by the author in the present edition, that the work is extended over two hundred pages, "notwithstanding a very considerable enlargement in the page."

It might be supposed that to a work, like that of Dr. Watson, of which the accuracy and fulness are so universally confessed, no opening would be found for any additions or annotations on the part of the American editor. Nevertheless Dr. Condie has, by a judicious exercise of his editorial functions, succeeded in increasing the interest and value of these lectures generally, but more especially to the American student and practitioner. His annotations are mostly just, and his additions pertinent and well drawn up. Independently of the proper textual additions, he has also augmented considerably the number of illustrations beyond those of the latest London edition, and thus considerably increased its attractiveness, which, in itself, is a merit of no small importance, as tending to a wider diffusion of its valuable teachings.

In its present form, the work is not only a valuable, but an indispensable, addition to the library of every physician; so that the members of the profession owe many thanks to the American publishers, for offering it to them in so attractive a form, as respects paper, typography, illustrations, and binding, and at a price so low as to place it within the reach of even the poorest among them.

ART. XXXI.—*A Practical Treatise on the Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment of Spermatorrhœa.* By M. LALLEMAND. Translated and edited by HENRY J. McDougall. Third American edition.

To which is added: *On Diseases of the Vesiculæ Seminales and their Associated Organs; with special reference to the Morbid Secretions of the Prostatic and Urethral Mucous Membrane.* By MARRIS WILSON, M. D. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1858. 8vo. pp. 380.

THE treatise of Professor Lallemand is well known in this country. A translation, made by William Hood, M. D., of Portland, Me., was published in this city as long ago as the year 1839, and, as the title page of the volume before us states, this is the third American edition of the translation made in England by Mr. McDougall.

Notwithstanding the very favourable reception this treatise has met with from the profession generally, and the laudations which have been bestowed on it by the medical journals, it has, we believe, been productive of much harm, having taught a most injurious mode of practice—the cauterization of the urethra—and led many to resort to advertising charlatans for relief.

The work of Marris Wilson, which has been appended to this edition of the treatise of Lallemand, seems to us to be a fit companion, teaching what we regard as equally objectionable modes of treatment. We may instance the following, which we give in the author's own words:—

"I am in the habit of applying a strong solution of the nitrate [of silver] to any single part of the canal, by using a curved glass syringe—a catheter, in fact—with an opening on the back of the curve near its extremity, the instrument having a small globe of India rubber attached to its external end. The opening is made to pass over every part to which it is required to apply the caustic solution, and a slight pressure kept upon the India rubber globe always brings a fresh quantity of the solution to the opening" (p. 372).

It is entirely unnecessary for us to make any reflections on such a mode of treatment as the one thus recommended.

A remarkable case is recorded in this publication of Dr. Wilson, in which, for

the relief of spermatorrhœa, the left testicle was removed, and by Sir Astley Cooper; not being relieved, the right was amputated, but the erections and emissions, both diurnal and nocturnal, were as frequent as before. Then, under the supposition that the prostate was the seat of the disease, pieces of potassa fusa were introduced into the gland, for the purpose of destroying it. This treatment is now being pursued. Distinct emissions continue to take place, but at long intervals, the fluid being considerably less in quantity! (pp. 338-40.) Curling relates a case where a gentleman in the upper ranks of life was castrated, on account of most distressing self-pollutions. The patient committed suicide; and the surgeon who had been rash enough to emasculate him, was threatened by the patient's friends with an action at law for performing so unwarrantable an operation. (*Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Testis, &c.*, Philad. 1856, p. 338.)

In the treatment of spermatorrhœa, the best surgeons confine their interference to general treatment; cauterization, which they were induced to try by what is said in its favour in the romance of Lallemand, they soon abandoned. We believe, ourselves, that the advice given by an eminent author, whose writings, though extensively disseminated of late, are little heeded, is that from which the greatest benefit is sure to come: *ἐν δὲ πνεύματι τὰς πράξεις τοῦ σώματος θανατοῦτε, ἡγήσθε.* (Ἐπισ. προς Ρῶ Η'. γ'.) W. F. A.

ART. XXXII.—*A Treatise on Fractures.* By J. F. MALGAIGNE, Chirurgien de l'Hôpital Saint Louis. With one hundred and six illustrations. Translated from the French, with notes and additions, by John H. Packard, M. D. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1859. 8vo. pp. 683.

M. MALGAIGNE'S most excellent and elaborate work on fractures and dislocations has been so long and so favourably known to the profession, as to render unnecessary any extended notice at the present time. It affords us, however, sincere pleasure to be able to welcome the appearance, in an English dress, of the first volume of this valuable treatise. The translator, Dr. Packard, undoubtedly deserves the thanks of the profession for the zeal and fidelity with which he has discharged the labour of rendering into English this volume on fractures. The annotations which he has appended to it are numerous, and appear to us to be of much practical value, adapting, as they do, the treatment of fractures to the generally received and most approved American methods.

The original illustrations of M. Malgaigne's work were comprised in a large folio atlas of lithographic plates. For the convenience of readers, and facility of reference, these have been faithfully reduced one-half, and have been collected at the end of the volume, with an explanatory text attached. The general appearance of the volume is extremely satisfactory, and reflects much credit on the translator. We trust that its success may be such as to warrant the speedy presentation of the remaining portion, which treats on dislocations.

J. H. B.

ART. XXXIII.—*A Treatise on the Venereal Disease.* By JOHN HUNTER, F. R. S. With copious additions, by Dr. PHILIP RICORD, Surgeon of the Hôpital du Midi, Paris, etc. Translated and edited, with notes, by FREEMAN J. BUMSTEAD, M. D., Lecturer on Venereal at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, N. Y., Assistant Surgeon to the New York Eye Infirmary. Second edition, revised, containing a *résumé* of Ricord's recent Lectures on Chancre. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1859.

HUNTER'S *Treatise on the Venereal Diseases*, with the additions made to it by M. Ricord, is almost universally acknowledged to be the best work that has ever been published upon the subject of which it treats.

Hunter was resolved, as he said himself, that this work should not be a mere bookseller's job—each subsequent edition rendering the former useless. The